

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-3 and 7 are pending. Claims 4 and 8-11 were previously withdrawn, and claims 5 and 6 are hereby canceled. No new matter is added.

The foregoing amendments and the following remarks are responsive to the indefiniteness rejection.

The Examiner contends that the specification teaches bodies with high densities such as greater than  $2.85 \text{ g/cm}^3$ , and that in such bodies 15-30% porosity “would not be likely.” However, the Examiner provides no factual basis whatsoever for this assertion. Next, the Examiner contends that “[i]t would be expected that the silicon would react with the carbon and form silicon carbide and filling any pores.” Again, this statement is not supported factually. Finally, the Examiner states that “it cannot be seen how the porosity may be as high as 15-30% when the material used to factor the porosity must be limited to 4 volume %.” Yet again the Examiner makes a statement unsupported by any facts. The rejection thus amounts to pure speculation by the Examiner. Applicant stands by the statements in the specification.

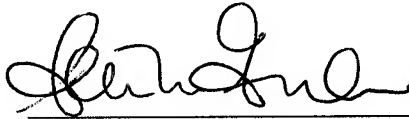
According to the present invention, the heat resistance and the reliability of a silicone carbide sintered body can be improved. Furthermore, according to the invention, a silicone carbide sintered body is provided having a bending strength greater than 200 Mpa, and in which silicone particles are uniformly dispersed. None of the cited references teach or fairly suggest the claimed silicone carbide sintered body.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, Applicant submits that the claims are allowable, and requests that the prior art rejections be withdrawn.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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